

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16, 17, and 22-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 16, 17 and 22-24 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 25 and 26 are allowed.

Claim 4 is rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 25-26 are allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the specification did not describe synchronization signals being transmitted on all of the data lanes.

However, as illustrated in the embodiment described in FIG. 4 and on page 4, ll. 22-27, the DoSync signal is asserted when any of the data lanes OB[0-9], IB[0-13] require synchronization cycles. That is, the DoSync signal would be asserted if only one data lane has an achieved data transition density is less than the desired data transition density. Even if the other data lanes have more than the desired data transition density, the DoSync signal will still be asserted. In other words, when only one (or less than all) of the data lanes has less than the desired data transition density, the DoSync signal can be asserted.

Furthermore, in an embodiment, as illustrated again in FIG. 4 and the accompanying description, DoSync can represent all of the data lanes. In the embodiment of FIG. 5 and the accompanying description, separate DoSyncIB and DoSyncOB signals are used for inbound and outbound data lanes. Thus, a single signal can represent all data lanes (DoSync), represent a group of data lanes (DoSyncIB, for example), or the like and indicate that a synchronization signal should be transmitted on the data lanes of the corresponding group.

In addition, the Examiner appears to be misreading the usage of “only” in claim 4. The Examiner indicates that the specification does not “indicate such a transmission only occurs when less than all of the data lanes have a lower transition density.” However, the usage of “only” in claim 4 refers to which data lanes have a lower transition density to distinguish “all of the data lanes” from “at least one of the data lanes”, not on what occurrences the synchronization signal is

transmitted. That is, since at least one data lane includes all data lanes, "only" is used in claim 4 merely to indicate that if less than all of the data lanes have a low transition density, the synchronization signal can be transmitted on all data lanes.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art would understand that the applicant had possession of the claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 4.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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